

Activities of the State Academies

HYDERABAD ACADEMY

The General Council of the Hyderabad Academy of Dance, Drama and Music met on 7th August to review the past activities and plan out the future. Since its inception the Academy has helped the Government of Hyderabad in collecting information on the various items of Tableau and folk dances for the Republic Day function in Delhi and also had undertaken the responsibility of producing these items. The Academy had organised competitions in Vocal and Instrumental Music, Dance, both classical and Folk. A drama competition was also organised by the Academy in which Dramas in Hindi, Telugu, Marathi, Kannada and Urdu were staged.

A two-day function was organised on the 26th and 27th of January, 1954 to celebrate the Republic Day in which demonstrations were given of Dance and Music items by the Prize Winners in the above competition. Shri B. Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Minister of Hyderabad presided over the function and gave away the Prizes.

Prize-winning plays were also produced subsequently for the benefit of the general public in the theatre of the All-India Industrial Exhibition.

The Academy organised a cultural programme for the delegates of the All-India Science Congress. A dance recital by Shri Krishna Kutty and Smt. Shirin Vajifdar and their Troupe was held under the auspices of the Academy.

The Academy sponsored the production of the play "Hukumat Ke Adhar" which was staged in Delhi by the Kala Mandal, Hyderabad in March, 1954.

During the coming year the Academy proposes to hold a Winter Festival of Dance, Drama and Music and to organise Folk Music and Folk Dances of the representatives of various regions of Hyderabad State during the Republic Day celebrations.

The General Council in its meeting adopted the Draft Constitution prepared by the sub-committee and decided to appoint Shri T. Sheshachari as convener until the office-bearers and the executive committee are elected.

The General Council also decided to consider as affiliated according to the provisions of the Constitution the following organisations which have been associated with the work of the Academy from the very beginning:

1. Shri Krishna Gana Sabha, Hyderabad.
2. Shri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha, Secunderabad.

3. The Hyderabad Academy of Music and Dance.
4. The Kala Mandal, Hyderabad.
5. Vijay Fine Arts Association, Hyderabad.
6. Government School of Music and Dance.

MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSAM SANGEET NATAK ACADEMY

The second meeting of the General Council of Assam Sangeet Natak Academy was held on 6th May, 1954 at Nowgong. Shri Jayramdas Daulatram, Governor of Assam and Chairman of the Academy, was in the chair.

The meeting opened with Mangalacharanam and "Bayanar Sarai" (Assamese orchestra) and was followed by the welcome address by Shri Motiram Bora.

Shri Bishnuram Medhi, the Chief Minister of Assam, inaugurated the meeting. In his address Shri Medhi made a number of valuable suggestions and laid stress on the need to popularise folk songs and folk dances of hills and plains of Assam in other parts of India; to organise study and researches and propagation of Borgeet, Ankya Geets and Nats and spread the Shankari culture in India; to establish a central Institute for training in cultural subjects; to make provisions for stipends and remuneration to talented artists; to establish a library and museum to facilitate study and researches in dance, drama and music and to participate in the celebrations of National festivals.

Concluding his speech Shri Medhi exhorted the public to lend their whole-hearted support in the laudable activities of the Academy.

After the presentation of the Annual report and audited accounts by the Honorary Secretary, Rani Sabita Devi of Bijni, the Chairman delivered his Presidential address in course of which he pleaded for authentication of the portrait of Sreemanta Shankardev. He also stressed on the need of researches on Borgeets and other special music forms of Assam, introduction of Hindustani music side by side with the programme for Assam's own music. He pleaded for hearty co-operation of officials and non-officials in working out the programmes of the Academy.

Shri Udayshankar, who attended the meeting on special invitation eulogised the special charm of dance and music of Assam which he called the fifth-school of dance. He stressed the need for maintain-

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Trophies were awarded included Borgeets, Ankiya Geets, Dasha-Avtar Dance, Sutradhari Dance, Composition Dance and Tandav Dance.

The Governor also presented certificates to 28 Institutions affiliated to the Academy.

The General Council discussed various questions connected with the cultural movement of the State and chalked out future programme of activity for the Academy. The question of the authentication of the portrait of Shreemanta Sankara Deva was also discussed and a sub-Committee appointed to examine and advise the Academy on the available copy of the portrait. The General Council passed resolutions on the following subjects :

1. Research on Borgeets
2. Research Institute of Dances
3. Syllabus of Dances
4. Need of a National Theatre
5. Framing of rules and bye-laws of the Academy

Proceedings of the meeting were punctuated with Orchestra, Ojha-Pali songs, etc.

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ing the purity of ancient and folk dances and music as faithfully as possible.

The Governor then distributed Prizes and Trophies to the winning competitors who had taken part in the festival of dance and music in Nowgong from 2nd to 4th May, 1954. The items on which Prizes and